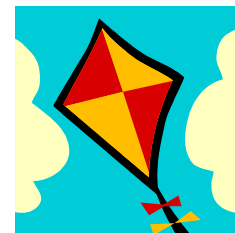


Disaster Resistant Times

Shenandoah Valley Project Impact

Citizen Corps Council and CERT Team Newsletter

March 2005



NOD Survey Results: Emergency Preparedness For People With Disabilities

The National Organization on Disability (N.O.D.) conducted a study among emergency management officials at the state and local level in the U.S. about how they have incorporated the emergency needs of people with disabilities in their emergency plans.

Key objectives of this study were to:

- Understand whether the needs of people with disabilities have been incorporated into emergency planning;
- Identify the elements of emergency plans for people with disabilities;
- Measure the level of involvement by people with disabilities in the planning process; and
- Understand perceived adequacy of resources.

The results show that a large majority of the officials say they are including the needs of people with disabilities into their emergency plans and that they have taken some steps to include the disability community in the planning process. But at the same time, except for emergency transportation and specialized equipment, officials have not included specific elements in their emergency plans for people with disabilities and feel the resources available to them are not adequate to meet the needs of people with disabilities. There is still a lot of work to be done. For complete, detailed results of the study, log on to NOD's website: www.nod.org and click on the "Emergency Preparedness" section.

Legislature Amends "Good Samaritan" Statue To Include CERTs

In its most recent session, the State legislature amended the Virginia State Government Volunteers Act which provides civil immunity to certain emergency services and preparedness personnel to include persons who serve on Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units that are established under Virginia Corps. "Such persons are not liable for any civil damages for any act or omission resulting from the rendering of such emergency services and preparedness activities during any natural or man-made disasters ..., unless the act or omission was the result of the person's gross negligence or willful misconduct." For additional information go to the General Assembly's website: <http://legis.state.va.us/> and type in bill # HB2520.

The Ash Wednesday Storm

On March 5-9, 1962, a nor'easter and blizzard hit the East Coast of the U.S. from the Carolinas to New England. Occurring on Ash Wednesday, it became known as the Ash Wednesday Storm. Damage estimates across the U.S. at the time of the storm equaled \$100 million (1962 dollars). In Virginia, coastal areas were damaged by flooding and high winds. Areas inland experienced blizzard conditions with deep snows and winds. Coastal flooding was severe because the storm happened during a "spring tide" when the tide was higher than usual. NASA's Wallops Island Rocket facility was extensively damaged. Chincoteague and Assateague islands were underwater and dealt with 75 mph winds. In our region, average snowfalls ranged from 20-27 inches. Big Meadows in Shenandoah National Park recorded VA's largest 24-hour snow total - 33 inches and largest storm total - 42 inches. Even though the Ash Wednesday Storm occurred 43 years ago, it is still a vivid memory for many people.



NUMBER 3 — Misty gave birth to her third colt, a beautifully marked filly at the Veterinary Hospital of Dr. G. E. Finney, Jr., on Route 13, Beaver Dam, Md., on Sunday. Shown with her, left to right are David Finney and Ned Finney and Edgar Wilkerson (wearing glasses) of Pocomoke City, Md.

- Photo From The Peninsula Enterprise, March 15, 1962

During the Ash Wednesday Storm, many of the famous Chincoteague wild ponies drowned. Misty of Chincoteague, the horse made famous in Marguerite Henry's children's novel, and her two foals were kept out of harm's way because her owner brought them into his kitchen during the storm. Shortly after the storm, Misty gave birth to a third foal, appropriately named, "Stormy."

Spring CERT Classes Scheduled

Rockingham County

April 6 - May 18
Wednesday nights
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Rockingham Co. Administrative Center, Harrisonburg

Staunton/Augusta County/Waynesboro

April 7 - May 19
Thursday nights, 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Augusta Co. Government Center, Verona

Two new Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) courses will be held this Spring. Please pass this information on to people you know. If you haven't taken CERT before, consider signing up. If you have taken CERT before, feel free to attend any individual session you may have missed or would like to use as refresher training. Call Rebecca Joyce at 540-885-5174 or email her at Rebecca@cspdc.org to register for the course or for additional information.

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For More Information On Tornadoes Check Out
VDEM's website at www.vaemergency.com



Family Fun Day

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Help create lasting memories for the kids in our community while supporting the American Red Cross of the Blue Ridge.

Saturday March 26 11am-4pm
at Augusta Expeland

FEATURING...
Live concert by Bill Wellington, Easter Egg Hunt, Moonwalk and Rock Wall, Face Painting, Balloon Animals, Karaoke, Magic, Pictures with the Easter Bunny, a variety of games, food concessions and raffle.

VOLUNTEERS NEED FOR A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES...
Sign up for the entire day (10:30-4:30) or 2 hour slots.
Groups welcomed to run the Easter Egg Hunt and other games planned. If interested, email acsforrest@yahoo.com or jillsiegel@yahoo.com or by phone **886-9151**


American Red Cross
Together, we can save a life

CONTACT THE RED CROSS OFFICE TODAY TO HELP!



**Know the difference between
a tornado watch and a tornado warning
- it could save your life.**

A watch means tornadoes are possible. When a tornado watch is issued:

Listen to NOAA Weather Radio, local radio or TV stations for further updates.

Be alert to changing weather conditions. Tornadoes accompany severe thunderstorms, and weather conditions can change rapidly. Blowing debris, large hail or the sound of an approaching tornado might alert you.

Bring companion animals indoors and maintain direct control over them.

Be prepared to go to your tornado sheltering place.

A warning means a tornado has been sighted or has been indicated by the National Weather Service Doppler radar and may be headed your way. When a warning is issued, take cover quickly:

If you go inside, go to a safe place to protect yourself from glass and other flying objects. Go to the basement or a hallway, bathroom, or closet on the lowest level near the center of the structure. Get down and cover your head. Get under a sturdy piece of furniture or a mattress if available. Stay away from windows.

If you are outside, hurry to the basement of a nearby sturdy building or lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area and cover your head.

If you are in a car, go immediately to the basement or interior room of a nearby sturdy building. Do not try to outrun a tornado. If there is no sturdy building nearby, get out of your vehicle and find a ditch or depression away from your vehicle. Lie flat and protect your head.

If you are in a mobile home, leave and seek shelter in a nearby sturdy building. Mobile homes, even if properly tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes or severe storms.

Know The Signs Of A Tornado:

Strong, persistent rotation in the base of a cloud.
Whirling dust or debris on the ground under a cloud base - tornadoes sometimes have no visible funnel.

Hail or heavy rain followed by dead calm or a fast, intense wind shift. Many tornadoes are wrapped in heavy precipitation and can't be seen.

Loud, continuous roar or rumble, which doesn't fade in a few seconds like thunder.

Persistent lowering of the cloud base.

If you see any of these signs, **take cover!**